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The Musket

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1969

Senior Destinations
The class of 2017 is graduating next month. Find out where they're headed!
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Staff Editorial
Editors comment on the role of money in the college application process.
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Final CollegeBored
Yuhang Zhang encourages graduating seniors to face their worst fears.
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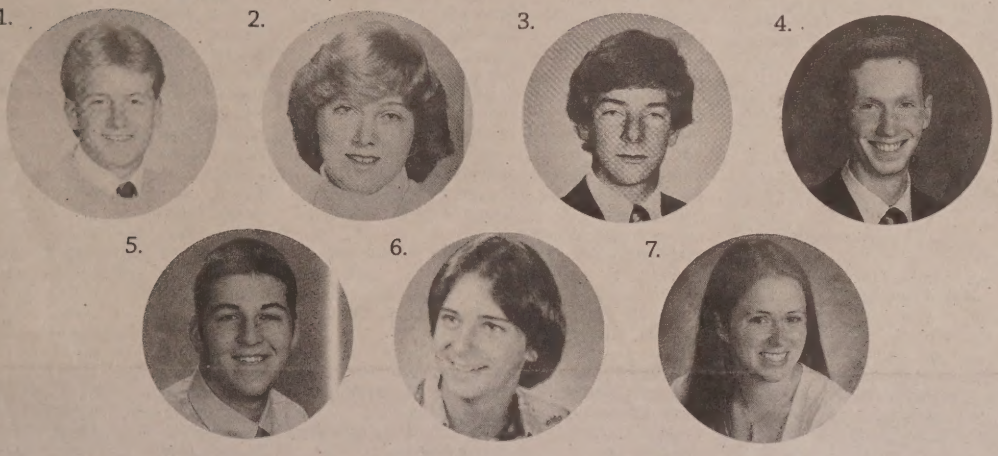
Volume LVIV Issue VI — May 2017

Lexington High School Alumni

Match each Lexington High graduate who now works at the school with the corresponding senior portrait from past LHS yearbooks.



A. Rilie Brown
B. Ryan Casey
C. Carolyn Dooley
D. Jim Borden
E. Jay Eidson
F. Dave Walsh
G. Laura Lasa

See lexmusket.com for answers

LHS misrepresented itself to a New York Times reporter

Max Saltman
Social Media Editor/ Webmaster

When The New York Times article about student stress at Lexington High School was published on April 5, the first opinions I heard about it were not positive. Most people I talked to were confused why the piece insisted that the painted rocks found near the freshman wing were "boosting spirits and spreading calm." To be honest, I hadn't heard of the Rock Room until the article came out, and neither had many of the students I spoke with.

Later in April, I was surprised to find that even people who were in the article questioned its merit. Emily Zhang, a senior interviewed by the author and featured prominently in the last part of the piece, said that the article "really did not address kids' efforts, and the huge amount of things that LHS has been doing, which is what it said it was all about, but it really just discussed rocks."

Zhang elaborated, saying that while the author had initially reached out to Lexington Youth and Family Services, a group that provides free counseling to students and families in Lexington, the article subsequently mentioned the organization zero times. Zhang conceded that the Rock Room was important, "but what LHS does well is not one thing, but the countless mental initiatives, and [the article] literally discussed like one or two."

Other students I talked to had an even more divergent opinion: maybe stress isn't so bad. Krishna Suraj, a senior who "pushed himself and was pushed throughout high school" by his parents, said that he thinks the article could end up hurting students who want to challenge themselves.

"I disagree with the idea that there should be massive changes," Suraj said. "I don't discount mental health issues, either. The problem is that we're getting a new principal soon, and an administrator might look to this article and think that we should, say, limit the amount of APs a kid could take. That's not a solution."

I agree with both Suraj and Zhang on the flaws in the article. However, I take issue not with the way that the article spoke about our school's troubles, but with the way that we portrayed ourselves to The New York Times.

Soon after the article was published, the author, Kyle Spencer, wrote this in a comment on the Times' website: "[Lexington High School] seemed really designed to serve top, top students who are performing at very high levels in math and science, which is an issue for students who simply cannot do that for whatever reason."

This doesn't sound like LHS, but people all over the country will see this comment and get the impression that our school is some sort of elitist "Hunger Games" wrapped in a Harvard finals club. It seems that we, as a school, let people tell a reporter that we're living in a terrible place.

As a community, we need to reckon with the mistake we're making when we talk about stress the way we do. We've made stress our whipping boy for every problem from student depression to school spirit. It's time to admit that while some kids may be stressed and unable to deal with it, even more are surviving, and some (like Suraj) may even actually appreciate it.

High school isn't supposed to make us happy all the time, and we shouldn't expect the school to solve all of our problems. That said, let's help our fellow students in need. Let's use all of the resources we have available, like free counseling from LYFS. And at the same time, let's be honest with ourselves: We go to a great school and everything is going to be OK.

CLASS OF 2017 SENIOR DESTINATIONS

Abbas, Eyad	Longy School of Music
Abrams, Sam	Rochester Institute of Technology
Ada, Ruth	University of Illinois
Adamjee, Zahra	Emory University
Ades, Max	Elon University
Anderson, Roshene	Bridgewater State University
Antonevich, Allie	Boston University
Aquilina-Piscitello, Alexandra	Vassar College
Arakelian, Shant	Wheaton College
Arbesfeld, Jeremy	Tufts University
Arellano Aranda, Javier	University of Navarra
Armstrong, Anna	Rhode Island School of Design
Armstrong, Robin	UMass Amherst
Arslanian, Lily	Boston University
Aspinall, Michael	Rochester Institute of Technology
Astorga-Licardie, Rodrigo	University of New Haven
Bachman, Louisa	UMass Amherst
Balachundhar, Nirmal	Northwestern University
Balagurusamy, Kaushal	UC Berkeley
Bank, Marie	St. Lawrence University
Banks, Jayme	University of Pennsylvania
Barbesino, Nic	Wake Forest University
Barry, Thomas	
Battista, Michael	Endicott College
Belgaonkar, Sahil	Texas A&M University
Belmonte, Kaleigh	University of Alabama
Belyea, Amalia	Elon University
Benites, Nina	
Berger, Christina	The George Washington University
Bergh, Jasper	Union College
Berliner, Julian	McGill University
Berman, Carly	College of Charleston
Bermudez, William	Pratt Institute
Bheemarasetty, Praneetha	Drexel University
Bianchi, Zofia	St. Thomas University
Bilge, Devin	
Blander, Dvir	UMass Amherst
Blau, Mark	University of Vermont
Blumberg, William	Gap Year/Tulane University
Boni, Maia	Binghamton University
Bostwick Pope, Lorna	University of Vermont
Boudett, Dorothy	Elon University
Boudett, Eliza	Elon University
Bove, Michael	Wells College
Bowie, Thalia	Long Island University
Brandes, Emily	Bucknell University
Briggs, Thomas	Virginia Institute of Technology
Brody, Stephanie	Brandeis University
Brown, Gabe	University of Delaware
Bruce, James	University of Miami
Buchta, Emma	McGill University
Bulovic, Katya	MIT
Byrd, Marcus	
Camilo, Samantha	University of Scranton
Campos, Matthew	The University of British Columbia
Cantwell, Colin	University of Virginia
Carruthers, Tyler	INSEAD
Caruso, Victoria	University of Vermont
Carver, Elias	Gap Year/University of Vermont
Casey-Fleener, Jane	Smith College
Centrella, Chris	Purdue University
Chan, Zachary	University of Colorado Boulder
Chang, Yuhi	Gap Year/Rhode Island School of Design
Chen, Thomas	Cornell University
Chen, Valerie	University of Toronto
Cherenson, Daniel	Washington University in St. Louis
Chi, Annie	UMass Amherst
Childs, Daniel	Gap Year/Clark University
Chin, Lindsey	Northeastern University
Chin, Lucy	Saint Michael's College
Chin, Thomas	Texas A&M University
Chipashvili, Andrew	Suffolk University
Chiu, Jason	
Choi, Eunice	Boston University
Choi, Jeana	Cornell University
Choi, Jeongwon	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Choi, Olivia	Villanova University
Choi, Yoonah	Pratt Institute
Chow, Shanna	UMass Lowell
Chow, Sofya	
Christ, Aubrie	College of Charleston
Christoforo, Tyler	Tsinghua University
Collazzo, Justine	UMass Dartmouth
Collis, Mya	Regis College
Connor, Acadia	Skidmore College
Cooper, Jonathan	Purdue University
Corbett, Ian	
Corcoran, Sydney	Ithaca College
Counsell, Elise	Gonzaga University
Crockton, Marnier	Hampton University
Crook, Hannah	
Crowley, Emma	Loyola University Maryland
Culman, Teddy	Middlebury College
Cumberbatch, Tariq	
Cummings, Patrick	Providence College
Cyr, Cameron	Loyola University Maryland
Daciuk, Morgan	Northeastern University
Darer, Sarah	Simmons College
Davis, Cameron	Lewis & Clark College
Davis, Isaac	Purdue University
DeAngelis, Anthony	Middlesex Community College
Decoste, Natalie	College of the Holy Cross
Delity, Maya	
Deng, Kevin	Boston College
Denton, Cecile	Sewanee: The University of the South
Derstepanian, Tadeh	Carnegie Mellon University
Desai, Aneri	
Deschler, William	Northwestern University
Deschner, Caitlin	Tufts University
DeVine, Emily	College of the Holy Cross
DiMasi, Jason	Carnegie Mellon University
Dinnar, Gil	Israeli Defense Forces
DiPietro, Sean	University of South Florida
Doan, Andra	UMass Boston
Doherty, Grace	Undecided
Domings, Richard	Work
Dong, Julian	Northeastern University
Duan, Kelly	Brandeis University
Dugan, Mary	University of St. Andrews
Dwyer, Aidan	Otis College of Art and Design
Edson, Tim	Bates College
Ekrem, Peter	University of Maine
Ernst, Paul	University of Delaware
Espino, Sara	Salem State University
Este-Mcdonald, Isabella	
Ettlinger, Tilly	University of Vermont
Everett, Taj	
Farris, Jessica	Stonehill College
Fein-Cole, Maya	University of Vermont
Feyfant, Alexandre	
Fieleke, Leina	Oberlin College
Finkelstein, Noah	Washington University in St. Louis
Finucane, Garrett	University of Washington
Fiore, Catherine	Ithaca College
Foley, Elizabeth	Bridgewater State University
Fonfield, Jaida	UMass Amherst
Fong, Ethan	Wheaton College
Forg, Lindsey	Gap Year/Cornell University
Foutter, Matthew	University of Michigan
Fowlkes, Anthony	Middlesex Comunity College
Fowlkes, Austin	Fisher College
Fraser, Joseph	Emory University
Frelick, Nico	Northeastern University
French, Matthew	Rutgers University
French, Meredith	Rutgers University
Gabby, Sofia	University of Michigan
Gallant, Shawn	
Gamota, Alex	
Gao, Ivy	Brandeis University
Gao, Tina	Johns Hopkins University
Garay, Jeffrey	
Garberg, Noah	Emory University
Garcia, Nico	Boston University
George, Andreas	UMass Lowell
Ghom, Shaydah	McGill University
Ghorbani, Cyrus	
Giesen, Cooper	Bucknell University
Gill, Abhishek	UMass Lowell
Gill, Sarah	Gap Year
Girma, Marertu	Cornell University
Givet, Olen	University of Edinburgh
Godbole, Vinayak	University of Rhode Island
Godwin, Catherine	
Goel, Keshav	University of Pittsburgh
Gokhale, Aneesh	Purdue University
Goldfinger, Esme	Bates College
Goldstein, Micaela	Chapman University
Gollerkeri, Sonia	Vassar College
Gong, Angela	Yale University
Gopalakrishnan, Vivek	Johns Hopkins University
Goss, Simone	
Grainger, Britney	UMass Lowell
Grunfeld, Gil	McGill University
Guo, Alex	
Guo, John	Cornell University
Gupta, Raghav	
Gurley-Green, Andra	Connecticut College
Gusinov, Max	Rochester State of Technology
Guzman, Adele	Queen's University
Haber, Eli	Gap Year/University of Chicago
Hahm, Debbie	Wellesley College
Haidar, Maya	Suffolk University
Hajjar, Joseph	Dartmouth College
Han, Christina	Mount Ida College
Hanberry, Amari	Lincoln University
Harding, Kelley	Fisher College
Harrington, Adam	University of Maryland, College Park
Harris, Camilla	College of William and Mary
Harris, Olivia	Boston College
Hart-Thompson, Hailey	Boston University
Hassan, Nooralddin	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Hausmann, Connor	McGill University
Havan, Aram	University of New Hampshire
Hayden, Caitlyn	Luther College
Hayes, Pallas	Syracuse University
Haywood, Anthony	Gap Year
Herlihy, Christian	ESSEC Business School
Hernandez, Precious	University of Vermont
Hershberger, Kian	Indiana University
Heyda, Mitchell	Lehigh University
Hodge, Whitney	Syracuse University
Hoffman, Daniel	Washington University in St. Louis
Horwitz, Sarah	Washington University in St. Louis
Huang, Lien	
Hudacek, Noah	Purdue University
Hughes, Cara	Boston College
Hui, Katherine	University of Chicago
Igarashi, Marina	University of Tokyo
Innocenti, Simona	Carnegie Mellon University
Ireland, Chloe	Carnegie Mellon University
Ivanenko, Praskovia	
Jaleel, Afareen	Johns Hopkins University
Janovitz, Lucy	Skidmore College
Jayaswal, Armin	Brandeis University
Jenkins, Elijha	U.S. Marine Corps
Jensen, Eric	Technical University of Denmark
Jeon, Jongtae	Harvard University
Jesurum, Max	Case Western Reserve University
Johnson, Chyna	UMass Boston
Johnson, India	UMass Amherst
Joseph, Alfred	California Institute of Technology
Joyce, Brendan	Wesleyan University
Kaashoek, Justin	Harvard University
Kahn, Sophia	Syracuse University
Kalashian, Jennifer	Stonehill College
Kang, Dabin	McGill University
Kaye, Maxwell	Tufts University
Kendall, Spencer	Hamilton College
Kepler, April	Mount Holyoke College
Kerr, Caroline	Fitchburg State University
Kerr, Danielle	Northwestern University
Kielar, Sam	Northwestern University
Kim, Grace	Boston University
Kim, Hana	Carnegie Mellon University
Kim, Bryan	Georgia Institute of Technology
Kim, Sarah	UMass Amherst
Kim, Yumi	UMass Amherst
King, Nicole	Endicott College
Kjelsberg, Clara	University of Rochester
Kjelsberg, Eva	Ringling College of Art and Design
Kjelsberg, Lilii	
Kouchakdjian, Hagop	Hamilton College
Kouri, Susana	University of Maine
Krishnan, Sanjna	University of Vermont
Kropper, Skyler	Trent University
Lahiff, Joseph	
Lamoretti, Stephen	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Lane, Joshua	Tulane University
Lane, Madelyn	University of Michigan
Lannom, Jen	University of Vermont
Lawee, Ben	Washington University in St. Louis
Lawrence, Jane	Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Lawrence, Peter	Middlebury College
Le, Wesley	Wentworth Institue of Technology
Leake, Avery	University of Texas
Lee, Aidan	University of New Hampshire
Lee, Christi	Harvard University
Lee, Eddie	UMass Amherst
Lee, Soyoon	New York University
Lee, John	New York University
Leightheiser, Grace	Colgate University
Lerner, Alexander	North Carolina State University
Levine, Madison	University of Connecticut
Lew, Michelle	School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Li, Benjamin	Undecided
Li, Alice	Tufts University
Li, Hengyu	
Li, Brendon	Boston College
Li, Tommy	Clark University

The Musket is proud to present Senior Destinations, our annual compilation of the various plans for the graduating Class of 2017. This information has been compiled to the best of The

Li, Antares	Boston University
Lim, Michelle	Carnegie Mellon University
Lin, David	Boston University
Lin, Ethan	New York University
Little, Andrew	Gap Year/Colorado College
Little, Robert	Colgate University
Lo, Justin	Gap Year
Lopez, Consuelo	
Losen, Samuel	
Lu, Rina	UC Berkeley
Lu, Yang	Syracuse University
Lu, Yilin	Purdue University
Lubowa, Nicholas	
Luterman, Theodore	New York University
Lynch, Angela	College of the Holy Cross
Ma, Frank	Tufts University
Ma, Yingbo	
Maffa, Benjamin	Skidmore College
Maimonis, Elizabeth	James Madison University
Makumbi, Brenda	Boston University
Marcin, Haley	University of South Carolina
Maroto Tobias, Beltran	Endicott College
Martin, Kenzie	Colgate University
Marx, Gaya	Israeli Defense Forces
Mason, Cassie	James Madison University
Mason, Ginny	University of Delaware
Mastyugin, Maxim	UMass Boston
Matteson, Honore	Indiana University
McAlarney, Michael	Bowdoin College
McCarty, Evan	
McGovern, Trevor	Fordham University
McKenna, Marshall	Columbia University
McKenna, Shannon	Fairfield University
McKenney, Grace	Macalester College
McLaughlin, Kenna	Quinnipiac University
McMillan, Maria	High Point University
Medley, Brooke	University of Vermont
Melsky, Emily	Northeastern University
Meltzer, Ronan	University of Maine
Menon, Rohit	Boston University
Mian, Samina	UMass Boston
Michelson, Rachel	University of Michigan
Millane, Cecilia	Iowa State University
Mitchell, Ben	University of Vermont
Mock, Stephen	Georgia Institute of Technology
Moon, Lauren	New York University
Moon, Natalie	Bates College
Moreno Padro, Matias	Northeastern University
Morgan, Yuki	University of Puget Sound
Morse, Chris	University of Vermont
Movsesian, Tatiana	UMass Boston
Mukamal, William	Yale University
Mukerjee, Trisha	Colby College
Murphy, Gregory	Undecided
Murray, Lauren	University of Rochester
Murthy, Veda	University of Southern California
Nadler, Sarah	University of Colorado Boulder
Nakhtigal, Elizabeth	
Nam, Jennifer	Simmons College
Nanavati, Janvi	UMass Amherst
Napoli, Sam	University of San Diego
Nardone, Amanda	
Nardone, Sarah	Auburn University
Nayak, Anil	Case Western Reserve University
Neal, Katherine	
Ng, Caleb	Rochester Institute of Technology
Ng, Walden	University of Vermont
Ngo, Nathan	UMass Amherst
Northrup, Daniel	
Novelline, Liam	Middlesex Community College
Nurse, Attiya	University of South Florida
O'Toole, Eoin	University of Maine
Oh, Sarah	Boston University
Ohashi, Akari	University of Connecticut
Okafor, Chitom	UMass Darthmouth
Ong, Beverly	
Orgad, Daniel	McGill University
Oshiro-Leavitt, Clay	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Pabla, Navneet	UMass Boston
Padir, Lara	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Pandey, Abhishek	UMass Boston
Park, Sarah	Cornell University
Parker, Faith	Johnson and Wales University
Partyka, Katherine	Savannah College of Art and Design
Patarroyo-White, Sagan	The American College in Spain
Patel, Rutvik	University of Vermont
Pawelka, Nikolas	UC Santa Cruz
Peiris, Shayari	The George Washington University
Penniman, Cooper	UMass Amherst
Perry, Michaela	UMass Amherst
Porras, Adrian	Vanderbilt University
Porter, Lindsey	University of Virginia
Potdevin, Henry	
Pranatartiharan, Krithi	University of Vermont
Pu, Betsy	Gap Year
Purdy, Christopher	Emory University
Putta, Niha	Brandeis University
Raghavan, Ravi	MIT
Raitzin, Michael	UMass Lowell
Raitzin, Peter	UMass Lowell
Rajasekaran, Vasanth	Tulane University
Ramesh, Natalie	University of Rochester
Ramesh, Siddanth	Brandeis University
Resnick, Alexander	Northeastern University
Rho, Shinji	Brandeis University
Rhodes, Jackson	Dickinson College
Robinson, Hae-Seung	
Rodriguez, Alec	Middlesex Community College
Rogers-Huegel, Grace	UMass Amherst
Roh, Danny	Amherst College
Rosker, Arielle	Oberlin College
Ross, Chris	McGill University
Rubenstein, Eric	Cornell University
Ruff, Adam	Ursinus College
Ryterband, Sophia	Wellesley College
Sabin, Matthew	Colby College
Sainterling, Jaytoine	
Saltman, Max	Sewanee: The University of the South
Santiago, Elise	Salem State University
Sarathy, Ashwini	College of William and Mary
Savitz, Josh	University of Michigan
Schadler, Rory	Dartmouth College
Schechner, Jaime	Emory University
Scotti, Katherine	Northeastern University
Scotti, Madeleine	Providence College
Scotti, Meaghan	Clark University
Seo, Minki	UMass Amherst and West Point
Shastri, Preeti	University of Virginia
Shaw, Holly	UMass Boston
Shaw, Ricky	UMass Lowell
Sheena, Olivia	
Shen, Joy	New York University
Sherwood, William	Tufts University
Shiple, Eric	University of Michigan
Shorter, Sarah	College of the Holy Cross
Shute, Noah	Wake Forest University
Simon, Sarina	Boston University
Sirkovich, Eric	UMass Amherst
Smelkov, Gregory	UMass Lowell
Smith, Justus	Arizona State University
Song, Rebekah	Wesleyan University
Song, Alex	UMass Lowell
Sood, Saahil	Boston University
South, Ian	
Spolaore, Edoardo	Columbia University
Sterne, Nathan	Colgate University
Stevens, Zachary	IMG Academy
Stewart, Luke	University of Vermont
Stoner, Nevaeh	Salem State University
Stratton, Taji	
Strenger, Helena	UMass Amherst
Strod, Jesse	Gap Year
Strohmeyer, Leah	The University of Kansas
Suh, Julie	Boston College
Sun, David	UCLA
Sun, Jessica	Northeastern University
Sundar, Reethy	Brandeis University
Suraj, Krishna	Harvard University
Sussman, Rachel	Brandeis University
Sutton, Dominique	Lasell College
Svenson, Pieter	University of Illinois
Swanson, Matthew	Gordon College
Syed, Saffana	Pace University
Tagliamonte, William	Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Tang, William	Emory University
Tatsuta, Kenyu	DigiPen Institute of Technology
Teeter, Andrew	UMass Amherst
Teng, Joseph	Clark University
Thompson, Cameron	
Thompson, Sam	Texas Tech University
Titemore, Ryan	
Tomic, Edward	New England Conservatory
Toulmin, Henry	Colby College
Treadway, Devon	Trinity College
Tzannes, Nick	University of Michigan
Ursino, Paul	Quinnipac University
Utkarsh, Sujay	Carnegie Mellon University
Van Buren, Nia	Franklin Pierce University
Van Emon, Addison	Duke University
Varghese, Joshua	
Varon Weinryb, Roy	
Vaughan, Derek	Coastal Carolina University
Virgile, Able	Worcester State University
Vogel, Renee	Boston University
Waite, Taryn	Colby College
Walhekar, Sukanya	Undecided
Wang, Adrian	Boston University
Wang, Alex	UMass Lowell
Wang, Catherine	Stanford University
Wang, Jessica	Duke University
Watson, Timothy	University of Miami/Frost School of Music
Weinstein-Delahunt, Jamie	Northeastern University
Weiss, Joshua	
Wendel, Ian	UMass Boston
West, Luke	Brown University
Wheeler, Rowan	Smith College
White, Josiah	St. John's University
White, Samuel	Gap Year/Bucknell University
Wiesen, Maeve	Brown University
Willert, Abby	Endicott College
Willis, Stephen	Undecided
Wisdom, Nathaniel	UMass Lowell
Wolf, Alexandra	Tufts University
Wolffe, Lenna	Endicott College
Wong, Anthony	Emory University
Wong, David	University of Toronto
Wong, Elizabeth	Suffolk University
Wu, Elaine	UMass Amherst
Wu, Elaine	Oberlin College
Wu, Kevin	Emory University
Wurtz, Liam	Gap Year/Ithaca College
Xie, Coco	Boston University
Xiong, Jennifer	
Xu, Allen	University of Toronto
Xu, Tian	Chapman University
Yang, Eric	University of Connecticut
Yee, Carter	University of Vermont
Yu, Sheng	
Yue, Elaine	New York University
Yun, Bonnie	Amherst College
Zak, Laryssa	University of Utah
Zang, Courtney	Tufts University
Zanin, Brian	
Zavaliagkos, Kassie	Northeastern University
Zen, William	UCLA
Zeng, Rohan	Carnegie Mellon University
Zeng, Jennifer	University of Illinois
Zhang, Cindy	Boston University
Zhang, Emily	Columbia University
Zhang, Maggie	MIT
Zhang, Matthew	New York University
Zhang, Rachel	Wellesley College
Zhang, Sabrina	Northeastern
Zhang, Sophia	Cornell University
Zhang, Vanessa	Yale University
Zhang, Yuhang	Vanderbilt University
Zhao, Charley	Carnegie Mellon University
Zhao, Ester	Smith College
Zheng, Catherine	Brandeis University
Zheng, Ruth	Harvard University
Zhou, Karen	Cornell University
Zhou, Stephanie Lan	UC San Diego
Zhu, Abbie	Cornell University
Zhu, Ada	Cornell University
Zhu, Audrey	Brandeis University
Zhu, Carol	Emory University
Zhu, Jeffrey	University of Southern California
Zinoviev, Roman	
Zurlo, Sophia	

Class of 2017 Top 11 Destinations

1. UMass Amherst	19
2. Boston University	17
3. University of Vermont	16
4. Gap Year	14
5. Northeastern University	12
6. Brandeis University	11
7. UMass Lowell	11
8. Cornell University	10
9. Carnegie Mellon University	9
10. Emory University	9
11. UMass Boston	9

Musket's ability, and we apologize for any inaccuracies. This list may not be reproduced without written permission. Congratulations to all the seniors of the Class of 2017 from The Musket!

Seniors should embrace fears before graduating from LHS

collegebored

■ Yuhang Zhang
Columnist

Listen up, because this is the last time you will ever read something written by me, on this grayish newspaper that you probably picked up because, outside of this issue, it is free. I don't know how many of you actually read my column throughout the year; if you did, congratulations on making it through the heapings of commas, similes and bad jokes.

It's the senior issue, and there are no pieces of advice left that I feel qualified to give. Because, face it — we are millimeters away from the "real world," and the worries of yesterday are bygone.

Instead, I'm here to write about possibly the most taboo subject in high school — which also happens to be my biggest fear.

I am deathly afraid of failure. Not of actual failure, as I had plenty of that in chemistry and Latin, but of failing my own expectations. If I can't accomplish what I want and what I believe I can, then there's nothing in the world that can get me to where I want to be. The truth can be real shocking — that no matter how much work you put in, or guilt you put on yourself or dreams you dangle in front of your nose, it might not be enough.

I am scared of people. Not any person, but an amorphous blob of person after person after person, where if I select the best traits from everyone and smush them together, I have a stunning, racially and visually ambiguous, perfect person that I can't stand in the shadow of. He plays sports, she never feels moody; he got a full ride to college, she can integrate-by-parts in her head.

And lastly, my greatest fear: being even remotely brave, letting my inner thoughts shine through and taking chances without plans. You might see how that could be a problem for college.

I have fears, but so do you. And of course I'm not expecting any of you to have the stupidity to reveal them all in print, to a whole bunch of friends and strangers and even teachers. I just hope that you find peace with any scars high school has left, celebrate any victories and find yourself smiling brightly through tears at graduation. And I really do hope you miss this school, because I know I will.

For any non-seniors, I hope the next senior columnist will stay more on-topic than me.

Thanks, Lexington!

Editorial

Students who attend competitive high schools or are from wealthy families have an upper edge in the college admissions process

Once again, Lexington High School is sending its newest graduating class off into the world. Once again, the vast majority of LHS students are going to college or university to pursue further studies. Once again, thousands of students from low-income families remain at a huge disadvantage when it comes to higher education. Though low income students can waive test fees, application fees and receive financial aid, they miss out on the significant educational advantages that more privileged students have.

While the admissions process is extremely daunting with its demands for strong academics, extracurriculars and test scores, many students overlook the financial burden that these requirements bring. It can be difficult for students in families that worry about paying their rent or mortgages to find the additional resources to pay for private tutors or lesson. If you search hard enough, there are internships, although they are often acquired through connections fostered by a select group of adult professionals.

Beyond the financial advantages brought with being a part of wealthy families, attending elite high schools, such as LHS, can provide those same students with a greater edge. The skills that many standardized tests assess are already taught and practiced daily within LHS classrooms. For instance, English classes across LHS, students share their opinions about a book and instinctively refer to the text for evidence. This skill is part of the culture and expectations at LHS, which demands students to perform to a high standard. Because of this, many students at LHS can take standardized tests such as the SAT or ACT without paying for a private tutor or prep class and do well, while low-income families are hit twice — unable to pay for students to attend schools like LHS, and unable to pay to supplement the gap.

Before the school year ends, let us stop and contemplate our advantages. Part of the celebration and reflection that graduation brings requires us to acknowledge the other factors that contributed to where we are. We don't have to feel guilty, we just have be aware of our privilege.

Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of the editorial board.

Ilana Virgile, 17, dies

■ Avery Gehring
Opnion Editor
Sanjana Puri
Online Content Editor

On April 9, Ilana Virgile, 17, a Lexington High School junior, died in her home, according to Legacy.com. She was the daughter of Helene Mayer and Kenneth Virgile and sister of Adam, Joshua and Noah Virgile.

She was known for her humor.

"She always had a smile on her face whenever I saw her. One that would light up a room," Ebony McCoy, Virgile's school counselor, wrote.

Virgile's friends also treasured her loyalty.

"Ilana always had my back. Whether it was a calculator for math or listening to me when I was having a tough day," Candela De Amorrortu, a sophomore, wrote.

Virgile was a valued member of the lacrosse community.

"Ilana was a pleasure to have on the team … Winning was nice but more important to Ilana was the friendships and the spirit of the game," Janice Williams, Virgile's freshman and sophomore year coach, wrote.

The Lexington lacrosse program is purchasing tags for their bags inscribed with "#1," Virgile's jersey number.

Her death can remind others who are experiencing similar challenges that there is support available.

As McCoy wrote, "For anyone who struggles with thoughts of self-harm and suicide, please know your family is here for you and also your school counselors. Never be afraid to share your thoughts or feelings with anyone."

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2016–2017

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